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[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.— MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE *RE* GUNTUR FOOD SITUATION.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have received notice of the following motion from the hon. Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu :—

'*I move that the business of the Council do stand adjourned for the purpose of discussing the statement of the Government regarding the Guntur food situation laid on the table on 23rd April 1947.*'

May I request the hon. Member to say how it is urgent? "

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, the statement itself says that the rural rationing system in Guntur has broken down. This is what the statement says :

' What has really happened is that the rural rationing has partially broken down and grain is not readily available to the poorer classes at reasonable prices.'

" Later on it states :

' The situation at the end of March was therefore very serious . . . Still the situation is being managed with considerable difficulty. Statutory rationing has been maintained in all the five statutory rationed towns and in the rural areas no one has starved though he might have had to buy his needs in the blackmarket or live on what he had stored.'

" That is the position as stated in this note, we want to know how this position has been met or what measures the Government are proposing to meet the situation and whether steps for relief and remedies have been taken."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I know what the Leader of the House has got to say? " 3.45 p.m.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, the urgency of the situation as envisaged in that statement was to draw the public attention to a very important food situation that has arisen in Guntur. In that statement, the Government drew the attention of the public to the difficult situation and have appealed to the public to part with the hoarded grains. The Government also wanted to find out what the reasons were for this hoarding of grains and how this hoarding became possible in Guntur. From the latest information that is available, it is understood that the situation has eased to a certain extent and that considerable quantities of grain have been released. Therefore, Sir, the Government took the trouble of putting this hard situation clearly in the form of a statement and drew the attention of this House. The Government also wanted to give briefly an account of the working of the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies. These societies which were responsible for procurement hitherto have been dissolved and a new agency has been set up to procure enough of the food, that is available. Sir, information from the Collector reached the Government yesterday that the food situation there, is now satisfactory and that considerable

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quantities of food-grains have been secured and that rationing is working satisfactorily. That is the latest information I have got. In view of the serious food situation in Guntur, a discussion was expected in the other House and as a matter of fact, it became the subject-matter of a series of interpellations in the other House and they have been duly published. So, I really do not understand the urgency for discussing this matter now."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I do not know why the Hon. Member sitting opposite should publish the statement at all if we are not to be given an opportunity to discuss the matter on the floor of this House. The Hon. Minister has not given full details of the present situation in that district but he has simply said that a report has been received yesterday that everything is all right there and that the situation has now become satisfactory."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Does the hon. Member want to press his motion to discuss the subject? "

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Yes, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The statement regarding the Guntur food situation is laid on the table of the House. May I know whether this House gives leave for discussing this question? "

[Some hon. Members of the Opposition :—' Yes, Sir.']

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not see anybody rising."

[Then, several hon. Members of the Opposition stood up in their seats.]

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Now, the question for consideration before the House is which is the time to be allotted for this discussion. We are rising at 5 o'clock for a very important business. It is possible that we may meet again at 6 o'clock. There are three Bills for discussion in this House. I hope, with your co-operation, to finish one Bill by 5 o'clock and the other two Bills between 6 and 7. Therefore, the only time for discussing this motion is after 7. That is the position. So, I will fix 7 p.m. for this debate."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" What about the resolution on Linguistic Provinces? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That will have to be taken up afterwards."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" On a point of order, Sir. The time stipulated is 5 p.m. So, if the motion regarding the Guntur food situation is to be taken up for discussion after 7, that is, after the business regarding Bills is over, it will not be an adjournment of the House. It will only be an extension of the House."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" ' Any time after 5 ' means extension of the House."